

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 52 of 1901.

# REPORT (PART II)

ON

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

### Week ending Saturday, 28th December 1901.

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REPORT (Part II)

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THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO: [illegible]

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

2791. In the course of an article on the isolation of England in Europe, which is causing anxiety, the *Bengalee* views with greater concern England's position in Asia with

BENGALIEE,  
24th Dec. 1901.

The situation. France on her eastern frontiers and Russia on her north-western frontiers. It has, however, some confidence in Lord Curzon's foreign policy, but is notwithstanding of opinion that one must put one's house in order when one is threatened with danger from outside—and that the loyalty and goodwill of the people must be secured. The article continues as follows:—

"Of late, many things have been done to alienate the feelings of the people. Reaction is the order of the day. Personal rule is sought to be substituted for government tempered by popular opinion. Local Self-Government is at a discount. There is a distinct trend of official opinion in favour of centralization. The educated community are in despair. The uneducated masses, stricken down by famine, and suffering from the pressure of poverty, curse their fates and wish that they had never been born. Grave as the outlook on the frontier may be, the internal condition of the country needs the most careful attention of the Government. It is too often the fashion to ignore internal administration in the too eager concern for foreign affairs. But domestic and foreign affairs are interdependent, and the happiness of the people ought to be as much the concern of the Government as the security of the country against foreign invasion. If the people are contented and happy and fired with a lofty enthusiasm for the well-being of their Government, the dangers of foreign invasion, even if such a catastrophe were unhappily to take place, are reduced to the smallest dimensions."

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

2792. The *Behar Herald* again calls the attention of the District Judge of Patna to the congested state of the Small Cause Court suits below the value of Rs. 100, and suggests the appointment of an experienced Judge to take exclusive charge of such suits, as the present staff of munsifs has neither the time nor the experience to deal with them.

BEHAR HERALD,  
18th Dec. 1901.

Congested state of Small Cause Court cases in Patna.

## (d)—Education.

2793. The *Bengalee* draws attention to the fact that the University examinations in Calcutta are held at the most unhealthy time of the year when the prevalence of small-pox and plague keeps scores of students from the city. The matter deserves serious consideration, and the journal advocates a change from March to December, as the latter month is healthy and the climate suitable for the prolonged strain to which the students are subject.

BENGALIEE,  
20th Dec. 1901.

The examinations were formerly held in December, and the change was due to the necessity felt to stop work in summer, but this difficulty can be obviated by classes being held in the morning.

## (e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

2794. Referring to the announcement made by a contemporary, that the Calcutta Municipality intends seeking the assistance of the Public Works Department in the construction of the new Municipal Office building, the *Hindoo Patriot* is of opinion that on principle the proposal should be rejected by the general body of Commissioners. No special reasons can be assigned for such a step, and there are experienced and able men on the staff of the Municipal Engineering establishment who can supervise the work most efficiently. If necessary, an additional engineer may even be appointed for the purpose. But before deciding this question, the journal urges the Commissioners to consider whether such a huge building is really necessary, as the new decentralisation scheme will cause the removal of a good portion of establishment, and there will be sufficient accommodation for the remainder.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
20th Dec. 1901.

The new Municipal Office building.



(g) *Railways and Communications including Canals and Irrigation.*BENGALIEE,  
22nd Dec. 1901.

A Railway grievance.

2795. The following appears in the *Bengalee*:—

"We understand railway passengers desiring to avail themselves of the 7-33 A.M. Diamond Harbour train, at the Balliaghatta station, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, have a serious grievance. The rush of passengers in this train is great in view of the fact that it has linked to it the Canning Town train. The passengers experience terrible hardship in purchasing tickets through the small aperture that is kept open for the purpose. We understand there is another aperture which can be conveniently kept open, on the principle of mass divided by two, and the difficulties may be immensely minimised. We hope the matter will attract the attention of the proper authorities."

(h) *General.*BENGALIEE,  
20th Dec. 1901.

2796. The *Bengalee* expresses its approbation of the action of His Excellency the Viceroy in ensuring the preservation of ancient monuments scattered all over the country, and is of opinion that the penalties provided in the draft Bill are rather severe, and thinks that care should be taken to obviate the possibility of any unnecessary interference with private rights.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,  
21st Dec. 1901.

2797. The *Moslem Chronicle*, in welcoming back His Excellency Lord Curzon to Calcutta, presses on His Excellency's attention the claims of the Muhammadan Community on the Government. "Theirs is a humble and modest cry; they pray for such appointments in the ministerial department as are in the gift of District Officers and from which they are shut out by the cliquism of *amlahs*. They pray that the rights of the Indian Musalmans to such appointments secured by the circulars of the Government of India may be confirmed, and lastly, that a Muhammadan from Bengal may be appointed member of Council."

BENGALIEE,  
12st Dec. 1901.

2798. The *Bengalee* repeats its complaint against the serious disadvantages under which an Indian candidate for the Indian Civil Service Examination has to labour. The marks awarded in Sanskrit and Arabic are 500, while 750 are awarded to Latin and Greek, and in the examination paper in Philosophy and in Greek and Roman History, Latin and Greek passages are set which require a knowledge of those languages, and in such papers the Indian candidate is apt to be out-distanced by a competitor whose knowledge of philosophy and history may be far below his, but who happens to be familiar with the classical languages of the West.

In this connexion, it welcomes the article of Mr. Keene, late Judge of Agra, but better known as the author of the *Decline and Fall of the Moghul Empire*, who in *East and West* complains that the question papers set are not appropriate nor fair. The *Bengalee* holds that the question papers are undoubtedly capable of improvement, and hopes that whatever improvement is effected, the claims of the Indian candidate to fair and equitable treatment will not be overlooked.

BENGALIEE,  
22nd Dec. 1901.

2799. The *Bengalee* says that, to give validity to the transfer of the Govindpur subdivision to Burdwan, it will be necessary to amend the Scheduled Districts Act (XIV of 1874), the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act (VI of 1876), and the Rent Act (Act X of 1859). It does not know of a single district in Bengal where two different sets of laws regulating the relations of landlord and tenant are in force. It was reserved for the present Government to introduce this anomaly, which cannot but lead to confusion.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
24th Dec. 1901.

2800. On this subject the *Hindoo Patriot* holds that the Government has no choice but to carry out the mandate issued by the Mining Association whether or not the transfer entails administrative dislocation and inconvenience and arrests the progress and prosperity of the district of Manbhum.



The *Patriot* maintains that no case has been made out for the proposed transfer, and that instead of remodelling the jurisdictions of several districts, it would be wiser to open out railways to the coal areas of Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau and Gaya which have not as yet been tapped. The result of the proposed transfer will be mischievous and productive of good to no body.

2801. The following appears in the *Bengalee* :—

BENGALIE,  
22nd Dec. 1901.

The Tyranny of Red-tape. "Lord Curzon has already done much to curtail unnecessary work and to abolish redundant returns in the public offices. But it appears that His Excellency has not yet succeeded in entirely robbing red-tape of its sting. Officers of Native Regiments specially have a lively time of it, as they are eternally engaged in a warfare—fortunately on paper—with the officers—or rather the lynx-eyed Native Assistants—of the Military Accounts Department. There is the Pay Examiner busily employed in vigorously applying—as per Regulations—the scissors of retrenchment and incessantly calling for explanations in respect of every excess charge—even amounting to one pice—that his clever Assistants can discover. The Commissariat Examiner emulates the example of his brother of the Pay Department, and so does also the Ordnance Examiner. Then there is the Officer Commanding the Division or the District whose calls have also to be attended to. And as if all this was not enough to distract any man, a circular has, we understand, been recently issued from Army Head-quarters ordering Officers Commanding Native Regiments to submit a return 'showing the number of cups of tea drunk by their men per month, giving price of the dry tea and the price of the tea brewed per cup, including cost of milk and sugar; number of cups of tea made from 1 lb. of dried leaf; whether the men buy the dried leaf to prepare themselves in the evening, etc.' And why is all this precious information wanted by Government? Not perhaps in the interest of the men or of Government, but solely to encourage the tea trade! Verily, Tea—we had better write it with a capital T—is almighty. From the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief downwards, every one seems to owe allegiance to this sorceress of the Brahmaputra. Even Chief Commissioners cannot rebel against her sway with impunity. But, seriously speaking, we gravely doubt the wisdom of making the Native Army of India an army of tea-drinkers. Why force this luxury upon men who are accustomed to do without it? Surely the time of regimental officers is much too valuable to be wasted in the compilation of impossible and—we were going to say—idiotic statistics."

2802. The following is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* :—

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
23rd Dec. 1901.

The case of Mr. Hudson, C. S. "Mr. T. C. Hudson, formerly Assistant to the Political Agent at Manipur, has been removed from the Civil Service by the order of the Secretary of State, because he had shot a Kuki coolie, who however did not die. But then, he has been granted a pension of £100 per annum. Mr. Pennell has, however, been removed from the same service not that he committed any criminal offence, but because he used intemperate language towards some of the highest officials in this country under the notion that he had been serving the interests of the Empire. But while a pension of £100 has been permanently fixed upon Mr. Hudson, not a pice has been given to Mr. Pennell, even in the shape of a gratuity. Of course, if an Indian member of the Civil Service had shot a human being, he would have not only lost his appointment but been sent to long terms of imprisonment."

2803. The *Bengalee*, referring to a memorial of the Indian signallers of the Telegraph Department to His Excellency the Viceroy, complaining of their grievances under the heads of (1) General Scale, (2) Terms of Pension, and (3) House rent, hopes that Lord Curzon, with his practical sympathy for clerkdom, will come to the rescue of the Indian signallers and do away with their grievances.

BENGALIE,  
24th Dec. 1901.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

2804. The *Bengalee* repeats that the Government of India is acting with irregularity and contrary to its own Regulations in proceeding, after the lapse of eight months and after the previous election had proved infructuous, to the election of a

BENGALIE,  
21st Dec. 1901.



member from the non-official members of the Bengal Council for a seat in the Imperial Council. It says :—

"The Government of India, by postponing the election for eight months, has been guilty of a clear act of illegality. We now find that the same view has taken by two non-official members of the Bengal Council who have declined to record their votes and have submitted a protest. These gentlemen are lawyers of great distinction, and they know what they are about. After the lapse of eight months it was not open to the Government of India to invite the non-official members to proceed again to the election of a member, the last election having ended in a tie. It is the duty of the Government of India to set an example to subordinate Governments and private individuals in the matter of the strict observance of Government Rules and Regulations. It would be disastrous if the impression were to go forth that the Government had committed a breach of its own rules. We appeal to His Excellency as the Head of the Government to reconsider the situation and act in accordance with the spirit and letter of the rules of his own Government."

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
21st Dec. 1901.

2805. The *Hindoo Patriot*, with a view to perpetuating the memory of Lord Clive, suggests the holding of an anniversary

A Clive Day for India.

meeting on his birthday every year, which should

partake of the nature of a semi-State ceremony. The day should be observed as a public holiday.

It trusts the Chamber of Commerce and the British Indian Association will take up the subject, and that it will commend itself to the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Viceroy.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
26th Dec. 1901.

2806. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains that the Government seeks

The Congress and the Govern-  
ment.

to kill the Congress by contempt, and that, as there is no use of wasting time "deliberating" year after year over the same thing, it would be better if the Indians either appealed to the English people and Parliament direct, or put their own house in order. Both these objects might have been secured by the resources which have been frittered away upon the Congress.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P.,  
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,  
The 28th December 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.



